A Gospel of Leaven (Part III)

An Unfortunate Example

> **You know the story. A young man took his portion of his father's inheritance and squandered it on riotous living. He ended up broken, ruined in health and spirit, and at his lowest point he decided to return to his father. Scripture tells us, "He arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him" (Luke 15:20).**
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> **Note that nothing hindered this father's forgiveness of the young man. There was nothing this boy had to do — not even to confess his sins — because the father had already made provision for reconciliation. Indeed, it happened all by the father's initiative: he ran to his son and embraced him as soon as he saw the boy coming up the road. The truth is, forgiveness is never a problem for any loving father. Like-wise, it's never a problem with our heavenly Father when he sees a repentant child.**
> **David Wilkerson -"Benefit of the Cross"**

My doubts about the Times Square Church ministry started on June 24th 2009 with a blog post by David Wilkerson titled "Benefits of the Cross". I read the above quote and was stunned! The son didn't need to confess his sins? Apparently to Wilkerson one of the benefits of the cross is that we don't have to repent when we sin. This message gets preached more now than ever; the current catchphrase used to promote this heresy is "Once a son, alway's a son" Which is actually just another way of saying **"Once Saved, Always Saved"**.

> **If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
> **1 John 1:8-9 (KJV)**

Repentance means we feel regret over something that we have done, and vow to change in the future. As the above scripture plainly states when dealing with God confession is an integral part of our repentance. The prodigal son showed both; he was contrite for his actions and confessed them with his mouth to the Father. Christ did not give us a flawed parable; He showed us exactly what was required for forgiveness of sins.

Are any Men Above Reproach?

Something was wrong, but like most people I greatly admired Pastor David. On several occasions I got an opportunity to spend some one on one time with him back in the 90s and had a great deal of respect for him and

his ministry. The question here for me was did David Wilkerson get off track near the end of his life, or did I just get more spiritual discernment? At the time I wrote this off as he was just a bit off of his game, getting a little senile perhaps, but I continued to keep an eye on his writings.

> **The Prodigal's father never rebuked him, never condemned him, never even spoke about his running away. Instead, he threw a great party and invited all the family's friends and neighbors. This father had been longing for his son to come home, and now it had come to pass.**
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> **The Prodigal protested at first, telling his dad, "No, no, I'm unworthy." But his father ignored him, calling for a robe to be put on his shoulders, rings on his fingers and shoes on his feet. Now everything that the father owned was once again made available to the son. And there was great rejoicing, with music, dancing and feasting.**
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> **I believe that love brought this young man home. But it was the father's delight that kept him there! You see, the Prodigal was kept with the father by the simple act of waking up each day to see that his dad was pleased to have him home. His father delighted at having him present with him. Moreover, everything in that young man's life that had been eaten by the cankerworm was being restored.**
> **David Wilkerson - "The Father's Delight"**

On July 12, 2011 Wilkerson once again cited the story of the prodigal son and again misrepresented the interaction between the Father and son. The son's deliberate act of repenting is changed into an act of protest. Let's have a look at that passage:

> **And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:**
> **Luke 15:21-22 (KJV)**

As scripture plainly illustrates this wasn't a matter of the Father bestowing ring and robe on His son and this causing him to protest. The son had purposed in his heart to humble himself before his Father before he even returned:

> **And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.**
> **Luke 15:17-19 (KJV)**

This is one of the truths you'll hardly ever hear preached today: a message of not only repentance, but humility. Christians are strutting around like proud cocks, being told they are "king's kids" and have all these goodies coming to them. There is no brokenness, no sense of our unworthiness and wretchedness as Paul so aptly described himself in **Romans 7:24 KJV**. We are told that any feelings of guilt over sins are either from others or the Devil. Why? To keep us from repentance! A repentance free gospel is a false gospel!

> **There is not one word in this parable that indicates the Prodigal came back because of**

> **love for his father. True, he was repentant; in fact, he fell on his knees, crying, "Father, I'm sorry! I've sinned against you and against God. I'm not worthy to come into your house," but he never said, "Father, I came back because I love you!"**
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> **What is revealed here is that the love of God to us is without strings; it is not dependent upon our loving Him. The truth is, He loved us even when we were far away from Him in our hearts. That is unconditional love!**
> **David Wilkerson - "God's Provisions and His Unconditional Love"**

The above quote is from August 12th 2011. Did you notice that within a month's time Wilkerson went from saying he believed that love brought the prodigal son home to saying there was no indiction that love brought him home?

Is God's love unconditional? Many of us have been deceived by this false doctrine that the love of the Father is unconditional, but it is not. Once again Mr. Wilkerson had promoted a repentance free gospel, because ultimately that's what unconditional means. No strings attached? There sure are strings attached, we must do our part by being repentant and confessing our sins. Why? To obtain forgiveness (**1 John 1:8-9 KJV**)!

God is David Wilkerson's judge, only He knows the condition that his heart was in before his passing. Some might say that it is a cheap shot to speak poorly of the dead, but I let Mr. Wilkerson's own words speak for him. We are commanded to know them by their fruits. I remember on more than one occasion he said that he prayed that God would take him before he ever brought dishonor to His name or went off track; perhaps that is precisely what happened. Unfortunately, this confession free gospel at Times Square Church didn't end with David Wilkerson.

GO TO PART IV